(a) whether the Government are embarking upon an ambitious programme of establishing 'grid capable of non-conventional power generation schemes' to augment the overall energy scenario in the country;

(b) if so, the location thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have since formulated any comprehensive policy on non-conventional energy spelling out the role of the Government, industry, Non-Government Organisations, Research Institutes and the users;

(d) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Government propose to announce the non-conventional energy policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A power generation capacity of about 1200 MW based on non-conventional energy sources has already been established in the country. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has proposed a target of 3000 MW of additional power generation capacity for the Ninth Plan period from wind, small hydro, biomass and solar energy. The projects will mainly be taken up as commercial projects through private sector participation. Their location will depend upon potential, technical feasibility and economic viability. No State-wise targets have therefore, been fixed.

(c) to (e) Government have not yet finalised a comprehensive policy on non-conventional energy sources. Preparation of such a policy and its finalisation would take some more time.

Subsidy on Sericulture

5534. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for increase in the subsidy on sericulture;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the measures taken during 1996-97 and likely to be taken in 1997-98 to boost the production of silk in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No request for increase in subsidy on sericulture has been received from the Government of Karnataka for the ongoing schemes of the Central Silk Board. However, while finalising the sericulture schemes for IXth Plan period, the requests/suggestions, if any, of the various State Governments including Karnataka would be examined/considered.

(c) The programmes/schemes for development of sericulture in Karnataka are being formulated and implemented by its State Sericulture Department. The Central Silk Board has supplemented the efforts of the State Government through its R&D activities such as undertaking field trials of newly developed improved bivoltine hybrids and cross breeds during 1996-97. In addition, CSB has undertaken the installation of 9 Ushankotis to help in pupae drying. 3 Demonstration Water Treatment Plants are also being located in Karnataka by the CSB to help improvement in reeling quality. 3 units have been assisted for by-product utilisation besides holding a no. of demonstration for seeding improved technology. Since Karnataka is a traditional sericulture state, the State Sericulture Department as well as CSB are likely to continue their efforts towards sericulture development in this state during 1997-98.

[Translation]

154th Report of Law Commission

5535. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 154th report on the criminal procedure code regarding hearing of rape cases;

(b) the other important recommendations made in the said report; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the important recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) 154th Report of the Law Commission was laid on the Table of the House on 20.12.1996. In respect of hearing of rape cases, paras 37 to 41 in Chapter XXII of the report are the main recommendations. All other recommendations are also included in the said Chapter.

(c) A copy of the report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the report.

[English]

Pollution by Dankuni Coal Complex

5536. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated March 21, 1997 under the captioned "Fishermen raise stink over polluting Dankuni canal";

(b) if so, the details of the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the details of funds allocated by the CIL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for pollution control and environment protection of the area; and

(d) the other steps taken for pollution control and environment protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.